



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California Desert District Office  
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, California 92553  
[www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov)

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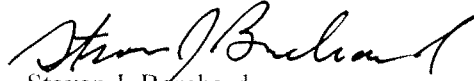
### Prevention of Unnecessary or Undue Degradation Coachella Valley Plan amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan

Congress declared that the public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield, in a manner to protect certain land values, to provide food and habitat for species, and to provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use. 43 USC 1701 (a)(7), (8). Multiple use management means that public land resources are to be managed to best meet the present and future needs of the American public, balanced to take into consideration the long term needs of future generations without permanent impairment of the lands. 43 USC 1702( c). BLM manages public land through its authorities in FLPMA including land use planning, acquisition, and disposition (FLPMA, Subchapter II), and regulation of use, occupancy and development (Subchapter III) of the public lands. See 43 USC 1711 to 1722, and 1731 to 1748, respectively. FLPMA specifically provides that in managing the use, occupancy, and development of the public lands, the Secretary shall take any action necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands. 43 USC 1732(b).

The Coachella Valley plan amendment area consists of approximately 331,000 acres of public land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. It falls within the boundaries of the California Desert Conservation Area, an area that contains unique desert resources adjacent to a large and growing Southern California population. See 43 USC 1781(a). Congress specifically recognized multiple use and sustained yield management for the CDCA, providing for present and future use and enjoyment of the public lands, particularly outdoor recreation, and OHV use where appropriate. Id. The 1980 CDCA land use plan, as amended, identifies allowable uses of the public lands.

The express purposes of the Coachella Valley plan amendment to the CDCA plan are to balance the allowed uses of the public lands while providing for protection, conservation, and recovery of listed species and designated critical habitat. As stated in the Coachella Valley plan ROD, page 3, "BLM established habitat conservation objectives for protecting sensitive species and their habitats...Future activities on public lands within the conservation area must achieve the habitat conservation objectives either through avoidance or application of appropriate mitigation measures to be in conformance with the Coachella Valley Plan and consistent with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan...The approved Coachella Valley Plan establishes a series of goals, conservation objectives, land health standards and criteria for various plan elements, designed to help managers achieve the appropriate balance of providing for multiple uses while sustaining the health and diversity of the landscape."

Within the context of the 1980 CDCA plan, as amended over time, and as recently amended by the Coachella Valley plan amendment, BLM will take action necessary to manage the public's use, occupancy, and development of the public lands in order to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands. 43 USC 1732(b). For example, BLM may impose reasonable mitigation measures on authorized activities, or may use its enforcement authorities, including, for instance, closure of public land to ORV use if necessary, to ensure that unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands does not result from public use, occupation, or development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Borchard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "B".

Steven J. Borchard  
District Manager, California Desert